

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/662,205

Examiner

Nahid Amiri

Applicant(s)

THOMAS, RODNEY H.

Art Unit

3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 23 June 2005 and tel. int. of 3 August 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-10, 12-19, 27 and 30-37.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20050803.
- ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

In view of Applicant's Amendment After Final received 23 June 2005, amendments to the claims have been entered. Claims 1, 11, 20-26, 28 and 29 canceled. Claims 2-10, 12-19, 27 and 30-37 are pending.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Anthony G. Fussner on August 3, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 30, line 5, after "on the board," add --wherein each said channel slopes generally downward towards on open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel--.

Claim 33, line 5, after "on the board," add --wherein each said channel slopes generally downward towards on open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel--; and line 6, after "fastener slots", delete "that are spaced apart".

Claim 36, line 5, after "by the couplings," add --wherein each said channel slopes generally downward towards on open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel--.

Claim 37, line 3, after "the floorboard," add --wherein each said channel slopes generally downward towards on open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel--; and line 4, after "fastener slots", delete "that are spaced apart".

Preliminary amendment paragraph 001 file on September 26, 2003 replaces the originally filed paragraph 001, which has been canceled.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 2-10, 12-19, 27 and 30-37 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

In regard to claims 2-10, 12-19, 27 and 30-37, the prior art does not show or suggest each of the channels of the couplings slopes generally downward towards an open end of the channel to allow a liquid to flow through and out the open end of the channel.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nahid Amiri whose telephone number is (571) 272-8113. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Nahid Amiri  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3679  
August 3, 2005



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